MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Of these rollers, two are said to be under repair: are the rest in order?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Does the honourable member consider that this number is sufficient for the Quilon Division?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: With the number of rollers we have, this alone is possible. We have paid a lakh of rupees to the Government of India for the purchase of more rollers. But they have not yet come to us.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that some works are carried out by hand-rollers?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes. It is so. It is not meant to wait for power rollers until they are available particularly when it is thought that the works could be done by hand-rollers.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I ask the honourable member whether such employment is conducive to the production of a smooth surface?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I am perfectly aware that it is not as good as steam rolling.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Is not the use of hand-rollers more costly than the use of steam rollers?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Will not the use of the hand-rollers hold up the work?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Only a portion of the work is held up owing to lack of steam rollers.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: May I know whether the work of the aerodrome has not contributed to the failure of the ordinary work in the roads?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No, Sir.

Widening and straightening of main roads.

209. * SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether in some parts of the State survey demarcation and acquisition proceedings are undertaken without reference to the actual need for the purpose of widening and straightening our main roads; and

(b) whether they have received any representation from the citizens of Karunagapally taluk in this matter?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: In some parts of Quilon taluk 40 feet are taken and in some other parts 100 feet are taken. Why is this variation?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: As I have already mentioned, it depends upon the embankments, cuttings, etc.

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SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: May I know whether the whole hundred feet, wherever it is taken, will be required for the scheme?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I may mention to the honourable member that at a time when the Government of India intended to contribute to these roads, they wanted a hundred feet. Accordingly, this length was taken. Later on, they withdrew from their promise and we reduced the width to sixty feet. Although we have demarcated a hundred feet it will be reduced wherever it is found necessary.

SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: I only want an assurance that hundred feet will not be taken.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It would not be taken.

P. W. D. Works.

210. *SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they know that a great portion of the works in the P. W. Department started prior to 1120 is still kept unfinished;

(b) whether they know that a major portion of the works included in the budget of 1120 and 1121 have not been begun and among those that have been begun, whether any substantial progress has been made;

(c) whether they have made any enquiry about the reasons for such inactivity in the progress of work in the P. W. D.; and

(d) if, so, the reason for the same?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: *(a)* Yes.

(b) A large part of the works included in the budget for 1120 and 1121 has not been begun but substantial progress has been made in the case of these that have been begun.

(c) Yes.

(d) The prevailing unsettled conditions.

SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MOHAMED: Will the member please say what he means by "unsettled conditions?"

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: "The unsettled condition" relates to the food scarcity which now prevails.

SAHIB BAHADUR K. A. MOHAMED: When does the honourable member expect to face normal conditions?

MR. K. M. PAUL: May I know the steps that are taken by the Chief Engineer to counteract the prevailing difficulty?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I cannot counteract them. We give increased rates of pay.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the prevailing "unsettled condition" had affected the progress of work in the aerodrome?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, it has affected that work too in a certain way. There was a time when we had to recruit fresh labourers, as a number of people ran away.

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